

The Importance of the Cross (1 Peter 3:18)

Proposition: Every person must understand the importance of the Cross of Jesus Christ by clearly seeing four eternal truths seen in this verse.

I. The Substitutionary Plan of the Cross (Vs. 18b)

- A. The Reason for Substitution (Vs. 18b)
- B. The Representation of Substitution (Vs. 18b)
- C. The Reality of Substitution (Vs. 18b)

II. The Suffering Path of the Cross (Vs. 18a,d)

- A. The Emotional Anguish (Vs. 18a, d)
- B. The Bodily Brutality (Vs. 18a, d)
- C. The Spiritual Separation (Vs. 18a, d)

III. The Satisfying Purpose of the Cross (Vs. 18a)

- A. An Exhaustive Satisfaction (Vs. 18a)
- B. An Ensuring Satisfaction (Vs. 18a)
- C. An Eternal Satisfaction (Vs. 18a)

IV. The Saving Provision of the Cross (Vs. 18c)

- A. The Origin of Saving (Vs. 18c)
- B. The Object of Saving (Vs. 18c)
- C. The Outcome of Saving (Vs. 18c)

The Importance of the Cross (1 Peter 3:18)

All through the ages since Christ died the cross has become a controversial subject. What would you think of a group who adopted an electric chair as their symbol. In reality that's what the cross is. The cross has become so widely used as religious jewelry that it has lost much of its original meaning and power. So what do people think of the cross of Christ. 1) Example of non-resistance - Example of how to live in a violent world. 2) Whatever you want - Since Jesus didn't accomplish anything it means whatever. 3) No meaning - His life teaches us what God is like. Death is unrelated. 4) Represents failure - Noble plan for earth but died before realized. Really not important what others think of cross. Important is what do you

I. The Substitutionary Plan of the Cross

Many today call the doctrine of Substitutional Atonement "Divine Child abuse." Yet it is ¹never in deep

A. The Reason for Substitution (vs 18b)

It would be impossible to sum up a description of God in one word, but if we had to it would have to be Holy. God is the complete opposite of sin. Perfect w/o sin. Yet God is Love. Man is sinful + must be judged otherwise God would be unholy. When the guilty is acquitted the Judge is condemned. Holiness

B. The Representation of Substitution

Substitution goes back to dawn of time in Gen 3:21. God made coats of skin to cover them. Abraham

The father of faithful was given a miraculous son
God asked for Isaac's sacrifice. Abraham about to
slay, a Ram in the ket. Passover night. Angel of death
coming. Kill lamb blood on little when it see blood.

C. The Reality of Substitution - All these
representations of substitution are realized
in Jesus. Passover lamb raised in Bethlehem, John
Baptist "Behold the lamb". When Jesus entered in
Eastern Gate, lamb entered sheep gate. Lamb under
inspection, Jesus under scrutiny. Lamb's slaughter
Jesus to Cross. Barabbar. Condemned. Pilate freed Barabbar.

II. The Suffering Path of the Cross

We can not further the suffering endured
on the cross of Calvary. God Suffered that hill.

A. The Emotional Anguish - Luke 22:41

The word agony - a gon - means to strive
or struggle. Struggling with is our humanity
The cup of sin. The sin of not only myself
but every murderer, thief, adulter, sodomite
rapist, blasphemer... to be ingested by one who has
never known sin. Result great anguish. Physical and

B. The Bodily Brutality - Pilate in order
to appease the Jews ordered Jesus scourged. Two
men with heavy, metal filled lashes would tear up
the body front and back. The soldiers would
beat and batter him as they played. Finally the
Cross. Body placed on cross hands nailed feet nailed
knees bent. Criminal rite and squirm in pain. Worst death

C. The Spiritual Separation - Hallelujah

- 1) ...what do you think of the cross? Every person must understand the importance of the Cross of Jesus Christ by clearly seeing four eternal truths seen in this verse.
- 2) ...woven in deep crimson threads all through the Bible.
- 3) ...Holiness says man should be punished. Love desires to save man from punishment. The answer that satisfies both is a substitute.
- 4) Pilot gave a choice to crowd: Barabbas or Jesus. Give us Barabbas. Barabbas in cell. Guard comes in: You are the luckiest man alive. Look, see that man on the middle cross. That was your cross and he took it now get out of here. He is the reality of what happened to you and I. Barabbas = Robber = us; Rebel = us; Restrained = us.
- 5) But sin always brings suffering. Let us retrace his steps of suffering.
- 6) Luke 22:41-44 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.
- 7) ...worst death one could possible imagine. For you! For you! If you reject Jesus and what he did for you on that cross and trample his precious blood, Hell is too good for you!

1) Habakkuk 1:13 Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity...

2) ...Golgotha, God forsook his Son. Taught on Ps. 23:4 Yea though I walk.... what a comfort to walk with God through the valley. Here Jesus was left alone in that Vally of the shadow of death.

3) Isaiah 53:11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied...

4) ...be looking back at something that happened once and for all. Colossians 2:13-14 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

5) Romans 5:9-10 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. **"...He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied..."**

11:13: While Jesus was suffering the sin of the world, God turned his face from his son. My God, My God, why... Many of you know the pain of losing loved one you have been lost to for a life time. Eternally Jesus had known the joy of perfect fellowship w/ God. But there on Calvary

III The Satisfying Purpose of the Cross

Acts 53:11 In this gruesome death on the cross a Judicial transaction took place. A debt

A. An Exhaustive Satisfaction -

Once. That word does not mean "Once upon a time." But one time, once and for all.

Catholics when taking Mass believe that in this ritual that the body and blood of Jesus is literally re-sacrificed, to pay for new sins. But tonight when we observe the Lords supper we will simply be looking

B. An Ensuring Satisfaction -

The capstone of redemption is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The resurrection of

Jesus ensures us that God has accepted the death of Christ as a sufficient payment for

sin. It ensures us of his coming. ^{John 14:3} And it ensures the refusing world of ^{Acts 17:31-32} coming Judge

C. An Eternal Satisfaction -

When you receive Christ as your saviour and he saves you its only good for one and

only one salvation. If that doesn't last then Jesus would have to come back and die

again. But no Jesus paid it all. Rom 5:9-10

When God sees the work of Christ on the Cross, He is ^{amazed} ~~amazed~~.

IV The Saving Provision of the Cross

IV. The Saving Promise of the Cross
All this Substitution, Suffering + Satisfaction
are for this reason: to bring you to God!

A. The Origin of Saunee - There are

a lot of teachers and preachers saying that -
man is just looking for God and one day he'll find
him. No man is on a roller slide toward hell going
40 miles an hour away from God. God is the
origin of salvation. God came looking for Adam.
God sent his son! Jesus came to seek & save the lost.

B. The Object of Savings - Us. Now

I don't know you like you know you. But if I know you like I know me, then I know that you know. we are not much worth saving.

When we see how holy and perfect he is and how un-
holy and sinful we are, it's enough to make us
wonder why such love, it's enough to cause us to

C. The Outcome of Savings - That we

might be brought to Him in fellowship.
The thought that God would want you
and I to know and fellowship and enjoy
His is almost unimaginable. The realization
that you and I are the objects of His mercy
His grace, His love & His blessing ^{comprehensive} goes beyond

V. Closing - No wonder Paul said in

Gal 6:14: But God forbid that I should
glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ
What does that cross mean to you?

- 1) ...us to bow down, and sing, "Amazing grace how sweet the sound..." ~~That God would want you to know and fellowship with Him is unimaginable, that you and I are the objects of His mercy, grace, love and blessing.~~